

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Boucher Outlines Aid Efforts for Katrina Victims



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd, Wilton, Norwalk, noted that Connecticut is officially aiding people dislocated by Hurricane Katrina and that Connecticut citizens are encouraged to help as well.

Led by Gov. M. Jodi Rell, a statewide relief effort has produced more than 30 truckloads of relief supplies donated by the caring residents of Connecticut that have been shipped to the hurricane-devastated Gulf states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Rep. Boucher said that collection program at state armories has concluded, but there is a continuing need for financial donations that can be made through various organizations.

To donate to the Red Cross, call (800) HELP NOW or (800) 257-7575 (Spanish) or contribute online by visiting www.redcross.org.

To donate to the Salvation Army, call (800) SAL-ARMY or contribute online by visiting www.salvationarmyusa.org.

To donate to Americares, call (800) 486-HELP or contribute online by visiting www.americares.org.

In addition, Rep. Boucher said the State of Connecticut will help up to 1,500 people relocate here from areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The state is coordinating food assistance, health coverage, housing, cash assistance and other services while providing a central point for information and referral through the telephone 2-1-1 Infoline.

Rep. Boucher also noted possible Internet scams by criminals to gather information and commit fraud as it relates to Hurricane Katrina charities. She said, "Officials warn to take care in giving personal information over the phone or Internet to anyone who may be e-mailing you or calling you at random. If you want to show your support, you ought to call them or contact them directly on the Internet to avoid this type of scam."

For more information on new scams, visit the internet fraud complaint center at <http://www.ifccfbi.gov/strategy/pressroom.asp> or the Internet Crime Complaint Center at their website <http://www.ic3.gov/>.

To report gasoline price gouging after Hurricane Katrina, contact the state attorney general's office at: 860-808-5318 or by e-mail at: attorney.general@po.state.ct.us